



The Birthday Menu Author: Meenu Thomas

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Level 3

Kanchi burst into tears.

"Sorry, Kanchi, but we can't do anything. It is still not safe to go out," said Mummy.

"But you promised you would take me to the restaurant on my birthday," said Kanchi. "COVID-19 is at its peak, Kanchi. We are still in lockdown," said Papa.

"I will cook something nice for you," said Mummy.









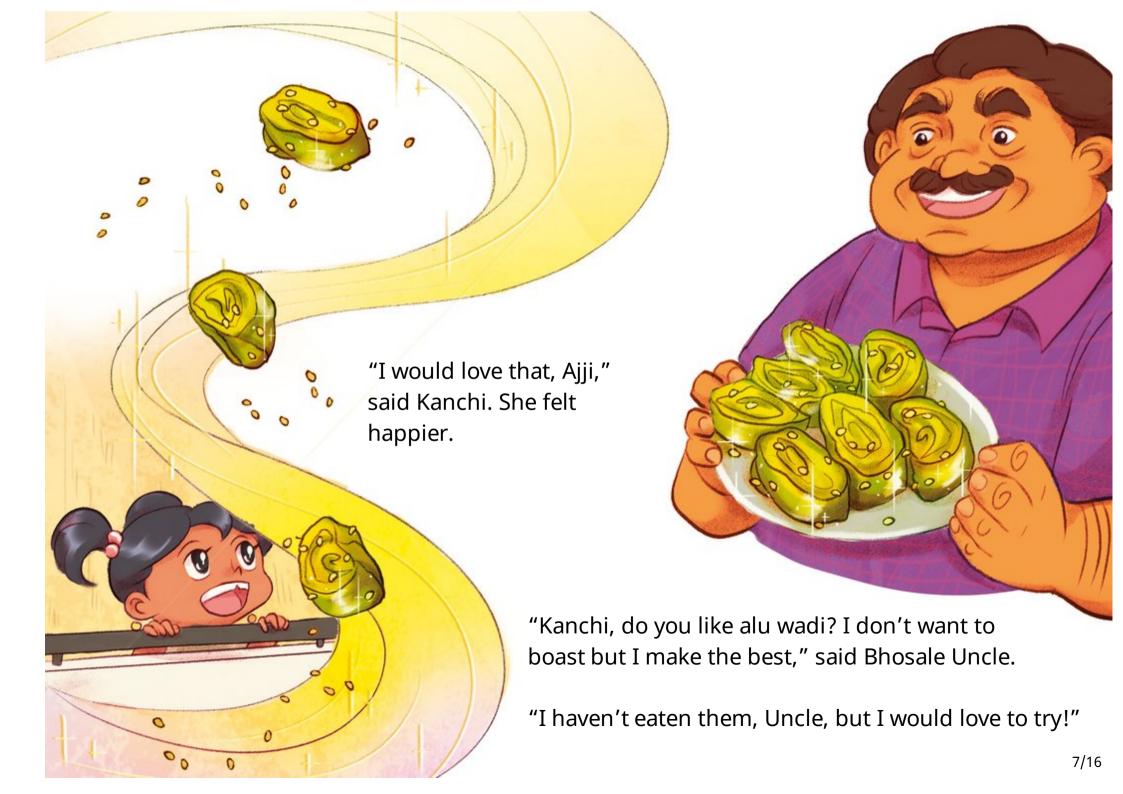
But Kanchi's screams stirred up the otherwise quiet Sunrise Society.



"What do you like eating at Swaad Bhavan, dear?" asked Janaki Ajji.

Kanchi felt shy but said, "I like their chowmein, lemon rice, aloo paratha, butter chicken and paper dosa".

"That's a lot of different delicacies at one place," said Janaki Ajji. "Wait! I can make you akki roti, with ghee and coconut chutney. I will make it on a banana leaf. I have the rice flour dough ready with me."









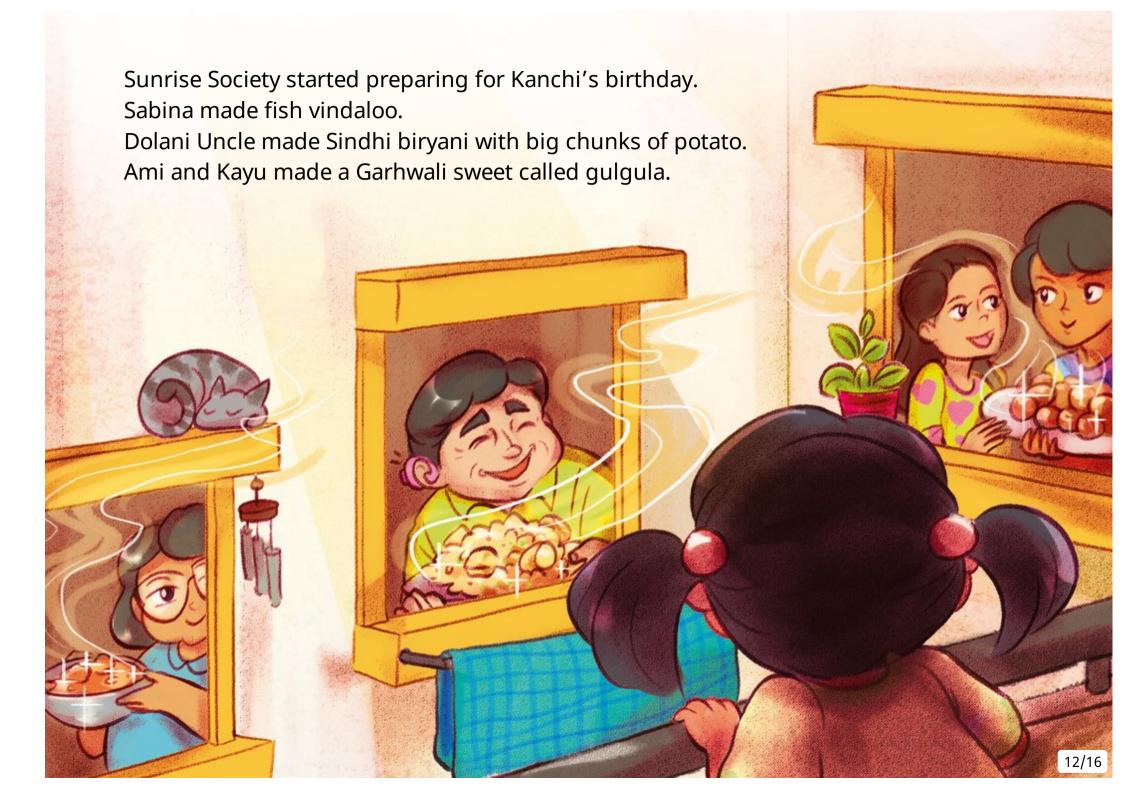
"Hey Kanchi, how about a Shillong-style aloo muri snack? I am making some for me and my friends," said Prema Didi.

"I love potatoes!" said Kanchi.



"No birthday is complete without tapioca chips, Kanchi. You just taste one. You will forget all about potato chips!" said Xavier Uncle.

"I will always love potatoes. But I want to try tapi... tapi... oca chips," replied Kanchi.





ropeway network to pass the dishes from one house to the other.

Mummy and Papa tore pages out of Kanchi's old colouring book and made party hats for all their neighbours.



Soon, dishes were being passed from one home to the other.

Kanchi enjoyed the feast.

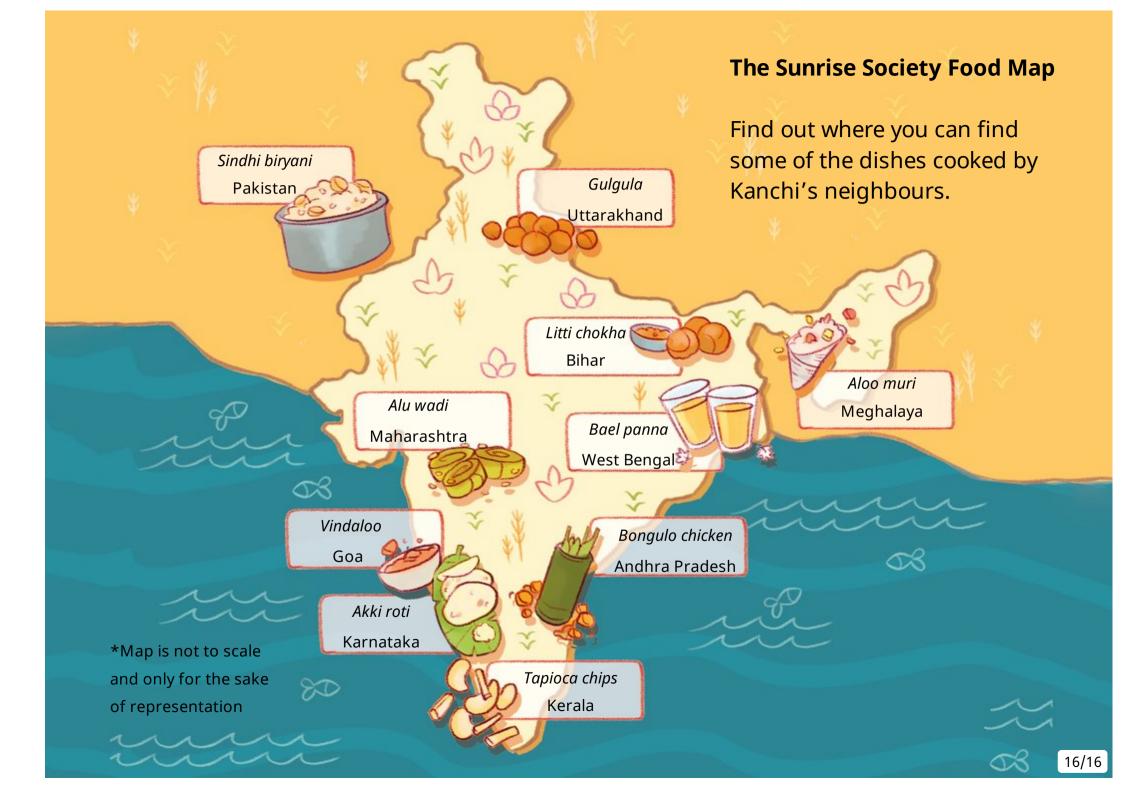
Madhu was still recovering from COVID-19, but she joined in the celebration because everyone insisted.



She played fun Bollywood songs on her music system.

Kanchi danced. Her friends Riyaz and Kev and the security guard, Rohit, joined in.

As the sun began to set, Sunrise Society lit up with laughter and good food.





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The Birthday Menu (English)

It is Kanchi's birthday and she can't go out to her favourite restaurant. Knowing that baingan bharta is all she has to look forward to, she is really upset. But her neighbours in Sunrise Society know that the best way to turn things around is with a feast! A story about community, compassion, and the food we eat.

This is a Level 3 book for children who are ready to read on their own.



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